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FOR ACTION

RECOMMENDATION FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES TO FUND THE APPROVED COUNTRY PROGRAMME**

Iraq

The present document contains a recommendation for additional general resources to fund the approved country programme for Iraq for which the balance of approved general resources is not sufficient to fund the programme up to the end of the approved programme period. The Executive Director recommends that the Executive Board approve additional general resources in the amount of $542,000 for 1998 to achieve the objectives of the country programme as originally approved by the Board.

* E/ICEF/1997/20.

** The figures contained in the present document are final and take into account estimated unspent balances of programme cooperation at the end of 1997. They will also be contained in the "Summary of 1997 recommendations for general resources and supplementary funding programmes (E/ICEF/1997/P/L.18).

1. The current country programme for Iraq, covering the period 1997-1998, was approved by the Executive Board in 1996, with an allocation of $2,000,000 from general resources and $10,000,000 in supplementary funds (E/ICEF/1996/P/L.72). At that time, the annual general resources planning level for Iraq, calculated under the criteria approved by the Executive Board (child population, gross national product (GNP) per capita and under-five mortality rate (U5MR)), was $1 million per year.

2. Since then, because of changes in Iraq's U5MR and GNP per capita, the planning levels for the country programme were increased to $1,271,000 per year beginning in 1997. As result, an additional $542,000 is required to meet the objectives of the country programme as approved by the Executive Board for 1998. A country programme recommendation for the period 1999-2000 will be submitted to the Board in 1998.

3. The regular country programme for Iraq is aimed at continuing to help rehabilitate social services, accelerate achievement of mid-decade goals and initiate action in the context of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It is synchronized with emergency interventions under the inter-agency humanitarian programme and with humanitarian assistance provided under Security Council resolution 986 (1995).

4. In particular, the programme will contribute to: (a) increasing access and coverage of services in health, nutrition, water and sanitation, education, children in need of special protection and broader areas of the Convention; (b) promoting community participation; (c) advocacy and social mobilization with government decision makers, parliamentarians, religious leaders, professionals and the media; (d) strengthening management and supervision of service delivery at the subnational level through capacity-building for government personnel and staff of local non-governmental organizations in the planning, coordination, implementation and monitoring of services; and (e) monitoring child rights indicators. The programme operates in the northern, central and southern areas of the country.

5. Under the ongoing programme, there has been a marked increase in coverage of the immunization and water and sanitation programmes, in addition to wider public awareness of diarrhoeal diseases and acute respiratory infections, enabling families to protect their children better during times of austerity. This has been coupled with training of health personnel including doctors, nurses, traditional birth attendants and other staff.

6. As a result of the increased availability of food and medicines because of Security Council resolution 986, it is expected that the situation of children will begin to improve. In the meantime, a nutrition survey conducted by the Ministry of Health in 1997, with assistance from UNICEF and the World Food Programme, pointed to the continued seriousness of the nutrition situation. The nutrition rehabilitation centres supported under the nutrition programme have expanded their outreach, benefiting thousands of children at risk.

7. The education programme has progressed at a slower pace, and efforts are currently underway to refocus the programme and clarify priorities both for education and for children in need of special protection. During the past year, the programme has attempted to concentrate efforts in regions at high risk,

particularly Basra, Thiqar and Missan, with considerable advocacy and mobilization efforts with local governorates and communities.

8. For 1998, the programme will continue to follow the objectives and strategies already approved by the Executive Board. It is expected, however, that as humanitarian assistance under Security Council resolution 986 gathers momentum, there will be increased opportunities for coordination and complementarity between the regular country programme and the humanitarian programme.

Additional funding requirements
(In United States dollars)

Current programme cycle	Approved general resources funding	Additional funding proposed
1997-1998	2 000 000	542 000